

Narrative Text in the Content Area Classroom

The purpose of narrative text is to tell a story or relate a sequence of events.

Often, stories contain or reveal the following:

Character Theme Dialogue Setting Conflict Plot

When writers use narrative text to show what they know and can do, they call upon important critical thinking skills, and since story often engages and resonates with readers, using it can help enhance understanding.

Authentic Writing in the Content Areas

THE PROFESSIONS:	DISTRIBUTION OF WORK:
Biographies	Blogs
Interviews	Magazines
Documentaries	Pod/Audio Casts and Videos
Historical Fiction	Open readings
Science Fiction	Writing communities online
Poetry/Illuminated Text	
Short Story/Flash Fiction/Digital Stories	
Plays/Skits	

Narrative Frame Questions:

1. Who are the main characters, and what distinguishes them from others?
2. When and where did the story take place? What were the circumstances?
3. What prompted the action in the story?
4. How did the characters express their feelings?
5. What did the main characters decide to do? Did they set a goal, and, if so, what was it?
6. How did the main characters try to accomplish their goal(s)?
7. What were the consequences?

Expository Text in the Content Area

The purpose of expository text is to convey information.

It is typically organized using the following frames:

Generalization, Principle, or Opinion

Concept-Definition

Comparison-Contrast

Problem-Solution

Episode-Chronological Frame

Process/Cause and Effect

Authentic Writing in the Content Areas

THE PROFESSIONS:	DISTRIBUTION OF WORK:
Research Case Studies Articles Research Grant Proposals Textbooks and Chapters Letter to the Editor Lab Reports Observations Experiments Descriptions of Theories Technical Documentation Statistical Analyses Descriptions of Algorithms Tutorials Business Plans	Blogs Wikis Pod/Audio Casts Committees Interested Learners Presentation Newspaper Magazines Journals Online communities relevant to content area

The Generalization, Principle, or Opinion Frame

The purpose of the Generalization, Principle, or Opinion pattern is to support a claim. It contains the following elements:

- Evidence: information that leads to a claim
- Claim: the assertion that something is true—the claim that is the focal point of the argument
- Support: examples or explanations for the claim
- Qualifier: a restriction on the claim or evidence for the claim

Generalization, Principle, or Opinion Frame Questions:

1. What information is presented that leads to the claim?
 2. What is the basic statement or claim that is the focus of the information?
 3. What examples, facts, or other evidence are presented to support this claim?
 4. What concessions are made about the claim?
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Concept Definition Frame

The purpose of this pattern is to define a concept by using description and examples. Concept Definition Frame Questions:

1. What concept is being defined?
2. To which general category does the item belong?
3. What are the attributes or characteristics of this concept?
4. What examples are given to illustrate this concept?

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Comparison and Contrast Frame

The purpose of this pattern is to draw similarities and differences between items, concepts, or ideas.

Comparison and Contrast Frame Questions:

1. What is being compared?
 2. What are the characteristics that form the basis of the comparison?
 3. What do these items have in common?
 4. How are they different?
 5. What conclusions does the author draw about the comparison?
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Episode/Chronological Frame

The Episode and Chronological Frames describe an event or events in the order in which they occur.

Episode/Chronological Frame Questions:

1. What event or sequence of events is being described?
2. Who are the people who play a role in this event(s)?
3. Where does the event(s) occur?
4. In what order do the major incidences occur?
5. What caused this event and what happens as a result of it

The Problem/Solution Frame

Problem/Solution Frames introduce a problem and then identify one or more solutions to the problem.

- Problem: A statement of something that has happened or might happen that is problematic (may cause problems)
- Solution: A description of one possible solution
- Solution: A statement of another possible solution
- Solution: A statement of another possible solution
- Solution: Identification of the solution with the greatest chance of success

Problem/Solution Frame Questions:

1. What is the problem?
2. What is a possible solution?
3. What is another possible solution?
4. Which solution has the best chance of succeeding?

Process/Cause and Effect Frame

In this pattern, the author details an outcome and describes what causes it or describes the steps leading to a specific product.

Process/Cause and Effect Frame Questions:

1. What is the process or topic being explained?
2. What are the steps in the process or causal events that occur?
3. What is the outcome of the process or causal events?

Persuasive Writing in the Content Area

The purpose of persuasive text is to convince readers or an audience to adopt a particular point of view and often, to take action.

Persuasive writing can take many forms. When writers use story (narrative writing) to persuade, readers often develop empathy for a character whose experience inspires action. When writers take an expository (informative) approach, the messages are more direct, and it is the speaker alone who strives to inspire action.

Authentic Writing in the Content Area

THE PROFESSIONS:	DISTRIBUTION OF WORK:
Stories (Digital, Flash Fiction, Short Stories) Speeches Keynote Addresses Letters to the Editor Letters Email Recommendations Poetry Plays/Skits	Blogs Wikis Pod/Audio Casts Committees Interested Readers Presentation Newspaper Magazines Online communities relevant to content area

Descriptive Writing in the Content Areas

The purpose of descriptive writing is to use detailed description to evoke images, feelings, and sensations within a reader.

Descriptive writing can take many forms. Typically, writers will make use of imagery to describe how people, places, things, and events look, sound, smell, taste, and feel.

Authentic Writing in the Content Area

THE PROFESSIONS:	DISTRIBUTION OF WORK:
Descriptions of people, places, events, and things.	Blogs Wikis Pod/Audio Casts Journals Interested Readers Presentation Newspaper Magazines Online communities relevant to content area

Hybrid Writing in the Content Areas

Hybrid writing is a synthesis of any variety of forms. Writers might use narrative, expository, and descriptive writing in a single piece to convey a message. Typically, multiple forms of media are included and even remixed to achieve a particular goal.

THE PROFESSIONS:	DISTRIBUTION OF WORK:
Digital catalogs and resources	Blogs
Digital stories	Wikis
Digital portfolios	Presentation
Webcasts and conferences	Online communities relevant to content area
Multigenre Research Papers	Digital photo, video, and music sharing services
	Ning
	Voicethread
	Slideshare